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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 17-34 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
220 PM EDT Thu Mar 30 2017

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Dave Myrick  
              NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration

Subject: Updated: Extratropical Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System  
for the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts (ESTOFS Atlantic) Update: Effective April  
25, 2017

Updated to include timeliness changes to NOAAPort and Web services.

Effective April 25, 2017, beginning with 1200 Coordinated Universal Time  
(UTC) run, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) will  
upgrade the Extratropical Surge and Tide Operational Forecast System  
(ESTOFS) as follows:

- Increase grid resolution
- Update open ocean boundary forcing
- Change Global Forecast System (GFS) components
- Add Standard Hydrologic Exchange Format (SHEF) output
- Make changes to directory on NCEP web services
- Add timeliness delays for all output.

Output changes:

With this upgrade, the following changes will be noted on the NCEP web  
services:

<http://nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/>  
<http://www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/data/nccf/com/>  
<ftp://ftp.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/com/>

Directory Changes:  
from - estofs/prod/estofs.YYYYMMDD  
to - estofs/prod/estofs\_atl.YYYYMMDD  
Where YYYYMMDD is year, month and day.

Resolution changes:  
The increased unstructured grid consists of 1.8 million nodes, which  
increases coastal grid resolution from 3 km to 200 m and extends inland to  
approximately the 10 m topographic contour relative to the North American  
Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). The increased resolution will impact the  
following file:

estofs.atl.tCCz.fields.cwl.nc

Addition of SHEF output:

Additional SHEF E format output at each CO-OPS observation station will be made available. SHEF files contains 30-minute combined water level (surges with tides), harmonic tidal prediction (astronomical tides), and sub-tidal water levels (the isolated surges). The files will be named:

estofs.atl.tCCz.points.cwl.shef  
estofs.atl.tCCz.points.htp.shef  
estofs.atl.tCCz.points.swl.shef

Timeliness changes:

All netcdf files will be delayed up to 10 minutes from current production output times. All gridded binary version two (GRIB2) files will be delayed up to 20 minutes from current production output times.

Update open ocean boundary forcing:

Update open ocean boundary from TPX07.2 to TPX08-ATLAS. Harmonic tidal constituents from the global tidal model TPX08-ATLAS are used to specify tidal water surface fluctuations at the open ocean boundary, while tidal potential forcing is applied within the interior of the domain. The performance of this grid for astronomical tides was verified using published harmonic constants from National Ocean Service/Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services observation stations located throughout the domain.

GFS grid resolution from 55 km to 13 km:

With this upgrade, the ESTOFS Atlantic will begin using the increased Semi-Lagrangian T1534 (~13 km) GFS horizontal resolution from Latitude/Longitude 0.5 degree (~55 km).

The Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL) will deliver output on the website at the observation stations that provide ETSS predictions:

<http://slosh.nws.noaa.gov/etsurge ESTOFS/>

The Ocean Prediction Center of NWS will deliver graphics of the model outputs on the following site:

[http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/estofs/estofs\\_surge\\_info.shtml](http://www.opc.ncep.noaa.gov/estofs/estofs_surge_info.shtml)

There are no changes to any NOAAPort/Satellite Broadcast Network (SBN) products with this upgrade. There are, however, timeliness changes up to 15 minutes later to data distributed over NOAAPort.

A consistent parallel feed of data is available on the NCEP HTTP site at the following URL:

[http://para.nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/noaaport/estofs\\_atl/](http://para.nomads.ncep.noaa.gov/pub/data/nccf/noaaport/estofs_atl/)

NCEP urges all users to ensure their decoders can handle changes in content order, changes in the scaling factor component within the product definition section (PDS) of the GRIB files, and volume changes. These elements may change with future NCEP model implementations. NCEP will make every attempt to alert users to these changes before implementation.

Any questions, comments or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below.

For questions concerning science changes, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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